

Montana Newsletter

Montana State Library

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News



VOLUME 20, NO. 1

MAY 1992

Butte, Glendive Libraries Get Title II Grant Funds

The Glendive Public Library will receive \$18,000 in LSCA Title II funds to meet unexpectedly high bids for remodeling its new quarters in the former 1st National Bank building. The State Library Commission agreed to Glendive's request during an April 29 meeting in Bozeman.

(Glendive received about \$121,000 in LSCA Title II funds last year to help purchase the building.)

The Commission also approved \$73,391 in Title II funds for the Butte Silver-Bow Public Library. The library plans to add a public meeting room with a kitchen area and foyer to its basement.

Director Marilyn LeBlond said the Butte library project is on hold until the federal government decides whether grant money invested in the library's old building has to be repaid. "As soon as we resolve that, we can move ahead with it," she said.

Twenty-seven LaserCat grants were also approved by the Commission.

Kids Pick YRCA Winners

Danger in Quicksand Swamp, by Bill Wallace, won the 1992 Young Reader's Choice Award (grades 4-8), while *Eva*, by Peter Dickinson, won the YRCA in the senior division (grades 9-12).

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Huck Charms Huge Crowd At May Hill Arbuthnot Lecture

In an eloquent speech to a packed hotel conference room on April 26, Dr. Charlotte S. Huck prescribed literature-based reading courses, little or no TV exposure and copious bedtime stories for nurturing a life-long love of reading among American children.

Huck, who chose "Developing Life-Time Readers" as her theme for the 1992 May Hill Arbuthnot Honor Lecture, noted she would have poetry play an integral part in every child's introduction to reading.

Parents needn't be concerned if a child is reading the same book over and over again or ignoring classics for less-desirable works, Huck said.

"Better they get into the habit of reading *something* than be watching TV all the time," she said.

Meeting later with children's librarians and teachers, Huck discussed and signed copies of her children's book, *Princess Furball*.

A pioneer in bringing children's literature into the classroom, Huck indicated she deplored the development of library "media specialists." She said librarians should focus on books



After her delivery of the May Hill Arbuthnot Honor Lecture April 26 in Bozeman, Dr. Charlotte S. Huck embraces Marilyn Berg Iarusso, chair of the Arbuthnot Honor Lecture Committee of the ALA's Association for Library Service to Children.

and let others distribute videos and other such materials. She also deplored the common practice of using basal readers such as the "Dick and Jane" series to teach reading, favoring instead children's literature.

The Arbuthnot Lecture was co-sponsored by the Montana State Library, the Montana Center for the Book and the Montana Library Association.

Tuxedos, Glitter Mark Debut of MLA TV Spot

"The envelope, please," was heard at the 79th annual Montana Library Association conference as sartorially impressive librarians presented the first (and only?) "Libby" Awards to the MLA's new 30-second promotional spot, "More Power To You."

Featuring two book-loving kids exploring the library, "More Power To You" was produced by Jim Heckel, director of the Great Falls Public Library, and made possible through the MLA's Implementation Task Force.

Heckel said libraries may purchase the video through him for \$29 for airing on local TV stations.

As part of the Task Force's project, a "cookbook" of promotional materials was created to help librarians increase local awareness about library issues. It contains, among many other items, lists of local media outlets, sample press releases, public



Greta Chapman, director of the Lincoln County Public Library in Libby, presents the "Libby" Award for best production to Jim Heckel, director of the Great Falls Public Library.

service announcements and speeches.

The notebook is available for \$5 from Debbie Scheslinger at the Lewis & Clark Library in Helena, 442-2373. Brochures are also available in quantity.

MLA Hands Out Annual Awards at Conference

The Montana Library Association bestowed its annual awards for library, librarian, trustee and administrator of the year on April 28 during the organization's annual conference in Bozeman.

Honored for "Library of the Year" was the Lewistown City Library. The library was cited for successfully uniting the community behind a major addition and remodeling project.

"Librarian of the Year" went to Greta Chapman, director of the Lincoln County Library in Libby.

Both increased use of, and funding for, the Libby library were attributed to her public relations skills.

Jim Nybo of Helena was given the "Trustee of the Year" award for tireless promotion of libraries on the

local, state and national levels. Nybo is chair of the Lewis & Clark Library board of trustees and the library's foundation.

The MLA's "Administrator of the Year" award was presented to John Morris of Whitefish High School. His support for library purchases has resulted in an excellent research library at the Whitefish school.

WLN Ballot Coming Out

Darlene Staffeldt, WLN Interest Group Chair, said the Multi-State WLN User Group will soon elect new officers through a mail ballot.

School librarians who want a ballot should get summer addresses to Darlene or Diane Gunderson at the State Library. Call 444-5381 or 444-5349 if you have questions.

Upcoming Conferences

"Electronic Access to Information" graduate course, May 30-June 5, 1992, University of Wyoming, Laramie, Corky Walters, 307-777-7281.

Census Data Users Workshop, June 2, 3 & 4, 1992, Helena, MT Dept. of Commerce Census and Economic Information Center, 444-4302; deadline is May 22.

"Information and Rural Economic Development: Infrastructure," June 4-6, 1992, College of Continuing Education, Clarion University of PA, Clarion, PA, 16214-1232.

On the Library Shelf

The following library-related titles are available from Information Resources at the State Library:

The Business of Running a Library (027.4 Cirino);

1992 Young Readers Choice Award book preview (028.5 Young Video 1992);

Books, Babies and Libraries (027.625 Greene);

Latchkey Children in the Library and Community 1991 (027.62 Dowd);

Time Management Handbook for Librarians (025.1 Cochran);

Solutions to Your Public Relations Challenges (021.7 Solution);

A Budgeting Manual for Small Public Libraries (027.4068 Campbell);

Automation and Organizational Change in Libraries (025.0028 Johnson);

Automating the School Library Catalogs: A Reader (027.8 Automat);

Fundraising for the Small Public Library: A How-To-Do-It Manual for Librarians (025.11 Swan);

Titles may be interlibrary loaned for approximately four weeks and renewed if there is no waiting list by calling Dixie Carlson at 444-3016.

Children's Book Reviews

The key after each review gives the grade level for which the book would be appropriate, the reviewer's assessment of the book's quality (Q) and popularity (P) level (with Q4 and P4 being the highest possible rating), the publisher's information, publication date, number of pages, price and ISBN number.

The April Fool's Day Mystery, by Marion M. Markham (reviewed by Karen Rehard, children's and YA librarian, Missoula Public Library).

Who put the snake in the school kitchen? Prime suspect (and trouble-maker) Billy Wade hires twins Mickey and Kate to solve the April Fool's Day Mystery. Between Mickey's detective skills and Kate's science expertise, this mystery might get solved.

Amateur detectives will have fun spotting clues throughout this story. Add this fun title to your list of books for readers jumping the gap from picture books to chapter books.

(Grades 2-3; Q3/P3; Houghton Mifflin; 1991; 42 pp.; \$12.95; ISBN 0-395-56235-X.)

The Great Squirrel Uprising, by Dan Elish, illustrated by Denys Cazet (reviewed by Karen Rehard).

Scruff the Squirrel is a rebel with a cause. He wants to ban humans from Central Park because they are trashing it. Together with his friends the pigeons and mice, he manages to block all traffic through the park.

Ten-year-old Sally discovers how to communicate with the creatures and so she becomes the somewhat reluctant go-between with the mayor and the animals. Will the animals take over the park for good? Can humans learn to take care of it?

Children who enjoy books about animals that talk will enjoy this

humorous action-packed story. It's a little like *Watership Down* for 4th graders. The ever-popular "Save the Earth" theme should also attract readers. A bit fluffy, perhaps, but it makes its point in a way young readers can understand.

(Grades 3-6; Q2/P3; Orchard Books; 1992; 113 pp.; \$14.95; ISBN 0-531-08595-3 [Lib.].)

The Ghost and Lone Warrior, by C.J. Taylor (reviewed by Helen Turney, director, Big Horn County Library, Hardin).

This Arapaho legend tells of the courage of Lone Warrior as he had to fend for himself after he sprained his ankle on a buffalo hunting trip. His friends made him comfortable then continued on the hunt without him. Days passed, the weather turned cold, but his friends did not return.

One night, a spectre appeared before him. Lone Warrior managed to hide his fear, and the phantom explained he was the ghost of Lone Warrior's ancestor. It was he who had caused the accident in order to save Lone Warrior from his friends' fate. Lone Warrior was spared in order to become a great leader of his people.

The illustrations give authenticity to the life and times of these Plains people.

(Grades 1-4; Q4/P3; Tundra Books; 1991; 21 pp.; \$12.95; ISBN 0-88776-264-6.)

In My Mother's House, by Ann Nolan Clark (reviewed by Helen Turney).

Clark has gathered poetry from the Tewa children of Tesuque Pueblo, near Santa Fe, to form this fascinating view of community life as seen through the eyes of the children. They tell how the people use the land, plants and animals.

The illustrations clearly show how the people did their daily chores

and made their living. The repetition in the poetry helps keep this a pleasant read-aloud as well as a memorable work of art. A Caldecott Honor Book.

(Grades K-4; Q4/P3; Viking Press; 1941, reissued 1991; 56 pp.; \$15.95; ISBN 0-670-83917-5.)

I Once Knew an Indian Woman, by Ebbitt Cutler (reviewed by Helen Turney).

This engaging reminiscence of life in a French Canadian resort area near Montreal, Quebec, is seen through the eyes of the author as a child in 1927. Madame Dey was a formidable force among the villagers. She did not fit the normal mold in which we classify Native Americans, and as the story unfolds, she emerges as an unforgettable, caring and lovable person.

A first-prize winner in the Canadian Literary Awards, this should appeal to adults as well as to juvenile readers.

(Grades 5-up; Q4/P3; Tundra Books; 1967 (reissued); 69 pp.; \$5.95; ISBN 0-88776-068-6.)

Harvest Song, by Ron Hirschi (reviewed by Michael Hutchinson, Flathead County Library, Kalispell).

Set in the early years of the 20th century, this attractive picture book paints a heartwarming and informative portrait of daily life on an American family farm. From spring planting to the autumn harvest, a young girl and her grandmother share a variety of pastoral activities.

Deborah Haeffele's gentle illustrations mesh beautifully with Hirschi's text to convey a sense of simplicity and well-being. Listen closely, and you can almost hear an Aaron Copland score in the background.

(Grades 2-6; Q4/P4; Cobblehill Books/Dutton; 1991; \$13.95.)

(continued from page 3)

The High Voyage: The Final Crossing of Christopher Columbus, by Olga Litowsky (reviewed by Cynthia Rooley, director, Liberty County Library, Chester).

This is the story of the last voyage of Christopher Columbus as told by his youngest son, Ferdinand. The author attempts to describe the excitement as well as the fears of the young boy leaving home for the first time and his encounters in a strange new world.

Columbus becomes more complex and human as the reader views his life through the eyes of his son, his crew and his journal.

The vocabulary has many unique words from the period in history and the story line switches from the 13-year-old to journals to overheard adult conversations. While there is plenty of adventure, this book will be enjoyed most by the advanced reader in junior high.

(Grades 5-8; Delacorte Press; 1991; \$14.95; ISBN 0-385-30304-1.)

The Practical Joke War, by Alane Ferguson (reviewed by Judy Stephenson, librarian, Judith Gap Schools).

Taffy, 11, and her brothers Russell, 12, and Eddy, 9, begin their first summer without a sitter by playing a series of practical jokes on one another. When one of the pranks leaves the family room in a tremendous mess, Mr. and Mrs. Dillon, a librarian and an elementary school principal, respectively, demand a halt.

A parental lecture barely slows down the practical joke war. Grounding all three children and taking away their telephone and television privileges for a week sends them all into a sulk, but the "war" surfaces again. It takes Taffy's cat, Furball, to bring the "war" to an end, and to make Taffy see the truth about her new friend Susan.

Be prepared for a spate of practical jokes by young readers as Ferguson provides a variety of possibilities in her book!

(Grades 3-5; Q3/P4; Bradbury Press; 140 pp.; \$12.95.)

Mrs. Toggle and the Dinosaur, by Robin Pulver (reviewed by Candice Morris, children's librarian, Lewis & Clark Library, Helena).

Children will enjoy the play on names in this picture book for young readers. The principal, Mr. Stickler, informs Mrs. Toggle there will be a new student in her class, Dina Sawyer. Mrs. Toggle and her students rush to prepare for the arrival of dinosaur.

There is a nice plug for libraries when the group asks Mr. Paige, the librarian, for information on dinosaurs. Mrs. Burns, the school cook, and Mr. Abel, the school custodian, also help the class.

(Grades K-4; Q3/P3; Four Winds Press; 1991; \$12.95; ISBN 0-027-75452-9.)

Fritz and the Mess Fairy, by Rosemary Wells (reviewed by Candice Morris).

This delightful picture book will have readers laughing aloud. Fritz (a young skunk) leaves messes wherever he goes. Waiting til the last minute to do his science fair project, he inadvertently creates the Mess Fairy.

Wells illustrates the havoc with wild abandon. The Mess Fairy is much too messy for even little Fritz. He sends her back to where she came from by reversing his experiment. He then cleans up his act and the house. As a final surprise for his loving family, Fritz makes them breakfast in bed--thus creating total chaos in the kitchen.

(Grades K-4; Q3/P4; Dial; 1991; ISBN 0-803-70983-8.)

The Magic House, by Robyn Eversole (reviewed by Candice Morris).

This picture book is indeed magical. Younger sister April imagines the wonders of a waterfall sliding down her very own stairs and the front hall as a beautiful lake. Older and more pragmatic, Meredith refuses to see anything but a stairway and a hall. Meredith cannot even picture herself in the role of a swan for her ballet recital. April helps her older sister rehearse, and Meredith is soon able to see the magic.

Peter Palagonia captures this imaginative story in green and brown hues. The last page is a spectacular superimposed picture of a girl/swan (or is it a swan/girl?).

(Grades K-4; Q4/P3; Orchard; 1991; \$13.95; ISBN 0-531-08524-4.)

Black Holes in Spacetime, by Kitty Ferguson (reviewed by Judy Stephenson, librarian, Judith Gap Schools).

The possibility/plausibility of black holes in space has long fascinated science fiction buffs. Today, however, the concept has moved into the realm of astrophysics. The book defines the concept: "Black hole. An area of spacetime from which nothing, not even light, can escape, because gravity there is so strong." The authors go on to explain in layman's terms what black holes are, where they exist, how they came to be, and why the "death" of each and every star doesn't automatically result in the creation of one.

Ferguson draws comparisons that probably make sense to some junior high students and definitely should make sense to high school students. The information presented is enhanced by numerous drawings and photographs. The book contains a glossary and a list of sources, many of which are written for younger readers, and an index.

(Grades 9-12; Q3/P2; Franklin Watts; 143 pp.; \$12.40.)

Press Roundup

The **Boulder Public Library** held a grand opening May 3 after closing for two weeks in order to move into its brand-new quarters.

A Young Authors Conference held April 11 at the **Miles City Public Library** drew more than 500 people plus displays of hundreds of books written and designed by kids.

The **Livingston Public Library** has received an individual donation of \$5,000 plus a \$500 US WEST Foundation grant to help install air conditioning this summer.

A Canadian jazz band played a two-set benefit April 25 for the **North Valley Library** in Stevensville.

Hearst Free Library in Anaconda is \$1,000 richer, thanks to the Ladies' Ancient Order of Hibernians.

Busiest library in the state is **Missoula Public Library**, judging by items checked out (430,915). **Parmly Billings Library** was a very close second, with 430,730.

Polson City Library awarded 10 students in a writing and artwork contest held during National Library Week (April 5-11). And, local Kiwanis are donating cash and books to the children's section there.

The Colstrip Faculty Association is helping to fund the **Bicentennial Library's** summer reading program for the second year.

Kohrs Memorial Library in Deer Lodge honored 70+ volunteers at a special dinner in early April.

Sanders County has purchased the **Missoula Public Library's** bookmobile for \$21,829.

Senior services and books were targeted by a \$300 donation from the Eagles Auxiliary to the **Blaine County Library** in Chinook.

The **Havre-Hill County Library** unveiled its new LaserCat during a joint city council/county commission luncheon held April 3.

The **Red Lodge City Council** has withheld money from a Billings construction firm pending completion of the **Red Lodge Carnegie Library** addition.

Expanded hours and a summer reading program are being offered at the **Jocko Valley Library** in Arlee.

The **Sheridan Public Library** celebrated its 90th anniversary with an open house on April 9.

The **Lewistown City Library's** new microfilm reader/printer is getting heavy use.

A raffle is raising money for the **Valier Public Library Foundation**.



Natural Resource
Information System
Montana State Library

The NRIS program at the State Library has had several staff changes in recent months. Allan Cox, NRIS Geographic Information System coordinator since 1987, is the new NRIS director. He replaces Jon Sesso, who is now director of the Butte-Silver Bow Planning Dept. Allan brings 15 years of state government experience to the position and has an M.S. in geography from Virginia Tech.

Valerie Jaffe is the new Water Information System Technician. She replaces Peter Langen, who is now with the Reserved Water Rights Compact Commission. Val interned with the NRIS GIS program in 1989 and has a broad background in natural resource management in the academic, public and private sectors.

Lisa Roe and Peter Achuff, botanists for the NRIS Natural Heritage Program, have left to pursue new career opportunities. Jim Reichle is the new NHP assistant zoologist, and Bonnie Heidel is the new NHP botanist. Jim has been working with the Yakima Nation in Washington State, while Bonnie comes from the NHP in Bismarck, N.D.

Cooperation among the various libraries in **Glendive**--academic, public, school--was stressed during National Library Week.

A special slide show on the Sweetgrass Hills was shown April 13 at the **Conrad Public Library**.

A series of gardening lectures highlighted National Library Week at the **Lewis & Clark Library**.

Belgrade Community Library now has two Apple computers donated by the school district.

An extensive remodeling project has spruced up the **Wedsworth Memorial Library** in Cascade.

We welcome all newcomers to the NRIS program and extend our appreciation for the contributions of talent and hard work those leaving gave to the program.

Job Announcements

The State Library Commission seeks a contractor to study the library federation system in Montana, to assess its viability and make recommendations for the future.

Tasks include questionnaire development, meeting facilitation, scheduling and report writing. RFP responses are due June 5, 1992. Contact Mary Jane West at 406-444-3384 for RFP information.

Statewide task force seeks contractor to gather and analyze information to be used in developing recommendations to improve access to health care information in Montana.

Requirements include knowledge of existing library and health care resources and networks; excellent research, writing and oral communication skills. Must be available June-August 1992; work arrangements negotiable.

Proposals are due May 22, 1992. Contact Mary Jane West at 406-444-3384 for RFP.

MLS Courses Offered Via Satellite at EMC Campus

Montanans wishing to earn a Master of Library Science degree without leaving the state for a year or more may now do so.

Starting this fall, graduate courses in library science will be offered by the University of Arizona and delivered via video at Eastern Montana College in Billings. Degree candidates must also take 12 hours at the UA campus in Tucson.

"There are 12 applicants already paid (for this fall's program)," said Bill Cochran, director of Parmly Billings Library and one of the forces behind the fledgling program.

He said this is the first MLS program in the country to be conducted through distance learning, and that Montana is one of eight states signed on so far. The courses could be offered later at other sites besides EMC.

For more information, contact the EMC's Center for Continuing Education office at 657-2203 or Marilyn Ridgeway at the UA in Tucson, 1-800-955-8632 x240.

Calendar of Events

May

- 19 Trustee Training, Missoula Public Library
- 22 Trustee Training, Miles City Public Library
- 30 Trustee Training, Glasgow Public Library

June

- 3 State Library Commission, Helena
- 6-11 Special Libraries Association Annual Conference, San Francisco
- 25-27 ALA Annual Conference, San Francisco

(continued from page 1)

Nearly 67,000 votes from four Western states and two Canadian provinces were tallied by the University of Washington Graduate School of Library and Information Science in Seattle.

Nominees for this year's junior division YRCA are *The True Confessions of Charlotte Doyle*, by Avi; *Our Sixth-Grade Sugar Babies*, by E. Bunting; *Weasel*, by C. DeFelice; *The Legend of Jimmy Spoon*, by K. Gregory; *Dead Man in Indian Creek*, by M. Hahn; *Cousins*, by V. Hamilton; *Toughboy and Sister*, by K. Hill; *Orp and the Chop Suey Burgers*, by S. Kline; *Take a Chance, Gramps!*, by J. Okimoto; *Truckers*, by T. Pratchett; *Maniac Magee*, by J. Spinelli, and *Dealing With Dragons*, by P. Wrede.

In the senior division (grades 9-12), nominees are: *Redwork*, by M. Bedard; *Face on the Milk Carton*, by C. Cooney; *Enter Three Witches*, by K. Gilmore; *Silver Kiss*, by A. Klause, and *Losing Joe's Place*, by G. Korman.

In This Issue

There are two inserts included in this newsletter. One is a status report from the Academic Library Cooperative Collection Development Committee; the other is a petition supporting libraries from the American Library Association. The ALA is asking that signatures be sent back to them by June 1.

Montana State Library Commission

Mary Doggett,
Chair
White Sulphur Springs

Lloyd Wallin,
Vice-Chair
Deer Lodge

Peggy Guthrie
Choteau

Vada Taylor
Glendive

Michael Schulz
Dillon

Nancy Keenan
Helena

Anne Hauptman
Billings

Commissioners' addresses are in the
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